

Contributions

REFLECTIONS

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

While standing on board the U. S. battleship Indiana on October 20, 1900, in this city.

These mighty guns, these marvellous engines, these uniformed throngs—this one vast living machine—what's it all for? Yes, those monster guns, what for? For nothing save to hurl jagged iron into the hearts of their victims! Those engines! Great steel horses that carry the hunters to their prey! Those men! Trained murderers whose only business is to drive steeled death into the breasts of their fellowmen!

Ah, cruel and most damnable machine, it is your only business to make mourners of angel-hearted mothers, to make widows of sweet faced wives, to make orphans of golden-haired little children. It is your most horrible mission to drench the earth with tears, to shake it with sobs, and to manure it with blood and bones.

Tell me, hast thou ever made the world better? Yes, yes, if *might makes right*. Prove this to me and I will believe in thee. Prove to me that Pilate was better than Christ, that Nero was better than Paul, that the master is better than the slave, that the man is better than the woman, that the father is better than the babe, that the murderer is better than the victim, and I will believe in the righteousness of thy mission. Ah me! There isn't a plow, a hoe, or a pin, in all this land, that is not a greater blessing to mankind than thou.

Thou, indeed! The product of and the tool of a *Christian nation*. When vengeance no more belongs to God, when one murder makes another murder right, when the blood-seathed sword is a better missionary than the blood-stained cross—then will we believe that thou art the servant of a Christian nation, and not the servant of a Christian (?) heathendom.

Then cease thy awful vomit, O monster! Give me the gold that goes to buy victuals for thy hot belly, and for such as thou, and I will fill every valley of earth with song, I will enwrap every hill with praise, I will stretch the garments of peace over land and sea—yea, I will set the very heavens quivering with the shout, "Good will to men!"

2424 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

HOW MAY THE CHURCHES REACH THE MASSES

J. R. KELLER

(Read at Pennsylvania State Conference.)

We frequently hear the remark that this is the best century that the world has ever seen, and reaching the future in the light of the past history we expect the next to be better; but with all its improvements, discoveries and developments in science, and along educational lines; and with all the advanced methods of work in the church, yet there seems to be a prevailing lack of interest in religion and religious subjects.

That there is a breach or gulf between the

church and the masses, is evident to every close observer; and the chasm seems to be growing wider each succeeding year, and the religious world is becoming concerned about it and alarmed. The M. E. church has been suffering as a result of this condition until last year just previous to their Conference which convened in Chicago, they made this matter a subject of special prayer, and it received a large share of attention in their conference. So that I am not surprised at this query presenting itself to our Committee on program, and trust that something may be said that will assist us in bridging over this chasm.

I am convinced that this condition exists as a result of the lack in the preaching of some of the great essential elements of gospel power and in presenting the fundamental principles which underlie Christianity.

I. I answer that one of the means to reach the masses, is to preach and teach a pure unadulterated gospel of power suited to the wants of Mankind, of which Paul writes in Romans 1:16. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the Power of God until Salvation, to every one that believeth."

We are living in an age of unbelief and skepticism, and it obtains in the church as well as out of it. The masses outside of the church have lost confidence to a certain extent in God, in the Bible, in the ministry, and in Christianity; the preaching so often is not consistent with the word of God; and the preachers life not consistent with his preaching.

The masses are calling for more plain practical preaching, and less so called "logical reasoning."

The ministry find too many "allegories" too much that is "poetical" in the Bible; too many of the beautiful lessons of God's word are spiritualized, misconstrued, and misapplied until all their power is lost and their beauty destroyed, and they become really skeptical or skeptically inclined.

I shall not take of your time to notice many of the great essential elements of gospel power, and of the fundamentals of church growth, but shall mention but three of them and believe the others to be the outgrowth of these.

I. The first is FAITH; faith moves the arm of God. "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world." In order then to reach the masses we should preach, teach and manifest to the world that we really believe what we preach and teach, and that we are truly standing on God's promises, that we believe that He is able and willing to make every promise good to the children of men when the conditions are complied with. Men want help here and now, physically and socially, also in their business relations, and a religion that puts all the blessings and benefits beyond this life becomes too mythical, and is not the religion of Jesus Christ. We should show to them that God has many blessings for His children here and now and that we thereby get a foretaste of "Glory Divine,"

and get in touch with God's love. "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to Him must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of all those who diligently seek Him."

2. The second great essential element of gospel power is the "ATONEMENT." First its adaptation to the needs of a lost and ruined world. Second, the benefits to be derived therefrom, and third the relation that it sustains to us spiritually and physically, and also the relation existing between the physical and the spiritual.

3. The third "great essential element of Gospel power," is the work of the Holy Spirit in the world and upon the human heart; and the relationship that it sustains to the Christian spiritually as well as physically.

II. If we would reach the masses we must get to them, must get in touch with them. They must feel the touch of the warm and sympathetic heart and the helpful and loving hand of the church coming in close contact with their own cold, dead spiritual natures. The success of all reformations have been largely due to the close contact between the ministry and the masses. We should manifest a sincere and heart felt interest in those with whom we come in contact; sympathizing with them in their troubles, distresses and adversities.

The success of the Salvation Army is largely due to the fact that the middle and lower classes of society have learned that they are not afraid of being contaminated by getting in touch with them and manifesting a deep interest in them individually. We must get to them and mingle with them in their homes.

I have found by experience that some people cannot be reached, or in other words that you cannot get in touch with them until you get into their homes.

A house going pasture with a good wife, (and I sometimes say that I am only half a man without my wife in my work) possessed with a large degree of sociability, gets in touch with his people, and is one of the means of reaching the masses. The Pastor's wife can be a power among his people.

What I have said concerning the ministry from a social standpoint, is also applicable to the laity.

III. Harmony among ourselves as individual members of God's great family, the church. Nothing so retards the growth of the church and deters others from becoming interested as the spirit of discord among its members.

The Apostolic church burst upon the world a conquering power because they were saturated with that holy and divine principle that characterizes the true Christian; "All Conquering Love." Let true, deep-seated love in all its completeness flow out from us as a mighty magnetic current touching men and women and they will be drawn to us as by an irresistible force.

IV. A larger degree of harmony should prevail between the different denominations. The masses are astonished at the discord and